

## CASE No. 5

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF ARTICLE 59 ON SECONDARY  
HOMONYMS. (Z.N.(S.) 1550)

## Document 5/1

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Article 59c of the 1961 Code makes it quite clear that names rejected *after* 1960 as junior secondary homonyms are to be restored where needed in taxonomic situations wherein the formerly-existing state of homonymy no longer persists. It is perhaps implicit that names rejected *before* 1961 as junior secondary homonyms can never be restored as valid names regardless of the subsequent course of homonymy. Surely, however, an explicit statement is in order. Problems involving secondary homonymy are so frequently encountered that fully explicit directives are a necessity if troublesome uncertainty of application of nomenclatural rules is to be avoided.

## Document 5/2

By L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden,  
The Netherlands*)

In Article 59c it is only stated what procedure has to be adopted for dealing with secondary homonyms that are rejected after 1960, but not what to do with those rejected before that date. Therefore at the end of this paragraph should be added: "Secondary homonyms rejected before 1961 for reasons of homonymy, whether or not accepted by the rejecting author, cannot be used again".

## Document 5/3

By the Committee on Nomenclature of the Entomological Society of America.  
Chairman, Curtis W. Sabrosky

The following proposal for amendment of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature is made herewith on behalf of the Committee. Time did not permit review of the text by the members of the Committee and the responsibility for this rests with the Chairman, who drafted it after receiving comments from the Committee.

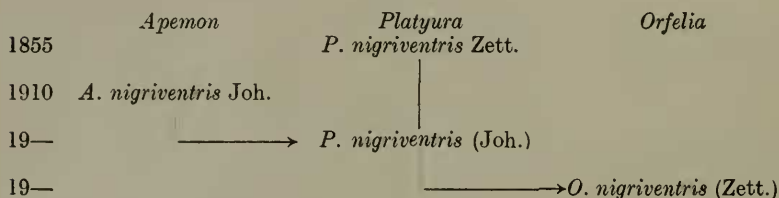
## Article 59c (Revival of Secondary Homonyms)

A majority of the Committee proposes that this Section and references to it be repealed, and that all homonymy be returned to the "once renamed, always renamed" rule. This rule is simple and direct, is consistent with past nomenclatural usage, and avoids vacillating nomenclature in complex and taxonomically young groups where differences of opinion and shifts of classification are relatively frequent.

## Article 59b (Secondary Homonyms)

The Committee members are not in agreement on whether the situation outlined below is covered by the Code, nor do they agree on the answer to the question that is propounded. However, the situation appears to be very common, and it should be clearly and unequivocally covered by a rule, based on whatever decision is made.

Homonymy in names of the species-group is a simple matter for primary homonyms, and clearcut for secondary homonyms in which both senior and junior names were first proposed in different genera and later brought together in a third genus. The situation is not so clear when one name is primary, i.e., originally published in the genus in question, and one is transferred in from another genus (secondary). It will be useful to consider an example. (Two of the dates are unknown to me, but exactness is not necessary for purposes of the example).



Question: In the genus *Platyura* today, does *nigriventris* Johannsen need replacement, by a new name or by a synonym (if available)?

One group of members believes that it does. Even though the zoological species *nigriventris* Zetterstedt is transferred to *Orfelia*, and the name with it, the name *nigriventris* Zetterstedt also remains in *Platyura* and always will. The name *nigriventris* cannot again be validly proposed in *Platyura*; it would seem logical and consistent to rule that a junior name *nigriventris* cannot secondarily be brought into *Platyura* and used there.

Other members believe that the situation as a whole is one of secondary homonymy, that it is governed by Article 59b, and that replacement is not necessary.

It may also be noted that the new Code does not specifically state that it is unnecessary to rename a junior secondary homonym that has escaped from a situation of secondary homonymy, though this may be inferred from Article 59b. A positive statement of this can be worked into the Article at the same time that the above problem is covered.

**Solution A**

To add two Subsections to Article 59b :

“ 59b(i). If a situation of secondary homonymy existed at some time but has been overlooked, and the taxa in question are no longer congeneric, the junior name is not to be rejected ”.

“ A species-group name is always present, nomenclaturally, in the nominal genus in which it was originally proposed, and thus it preoccupies any identical and junior name that is transferred into that nominal genus ”.

**Solution B**

To add a new Subsection to Article 59b :

“ 59b(i). If a situation of secondary homonymy existed at some time but has been overlooked, and the taxa in question are no longer congeneric, the junior name is not to be rejected, even though the senior name was originally proposed in the current genus of the junior name ”.